

# TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

2/21/79  
CN 1598

271609Z FEB 79

INDICATE  
☐ COLLECT  
☐ CHARGE TO

AX033

12065;

~~EXEMPT~~

TAGS:

SUBJECT:

ACTION:

INFO:

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

XDS-1 2/21/99 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
SHUM AR

OCEAN DISPOSALS OF PRISONERS' BODIES REPORTEDLY HALTED  
BY NAVY

SECSTATE WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Exile ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade as

Date Declassify on Reason

BUENOS AIRES 1598

REF: BUENOS AIRES 530

1. ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. Reftel included statement of member of Permanent  
Assembly of Human Rights of his belief that aircraft  
from the Punto Indio Naval Air Base have been used to  
dispose of prisoners' bodies at sea. Recently an  
Army Intelligence source, whose reporting of counter-  
subversive activities has been usually reliable in the  
past, told an Embassy officer that the Argentine Navy  
had ceased flights for disposal of bodies at sea.

3. He said that the Navy had previously been directed  
(by whom was unclear) to cease these flights, but had  
continued them. Now he believed that, as a result of

DRAFTED BY:  
DCM:MChaplin:jk

DRAFTING DATE  
2/21/79

TEL. EXT.  
201

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY:  
DCM:MChaplin

CLEARANCES:

SY:JBlystone  
POL:WHHallman  
POL:FAHarris

UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION

OPTIONAL FORM 150  
FORM 150-1  
January 1979  
Dept. of State

50153-401

81F184

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Page 2 of 2 1598  
MRN

the embarrassment over the discovery of cadavers recently washing ashore, a new directive had been issued to cease the sea disposal operation and that they would stop.

4. COMMENT: For ~~several years~~<sup>months</sup>, the Embassy has received reports from different sources to the effect the GOA was disposing of bodies at sea. This latest report seems to confirm the earlier in retrospect ones, ~~but does not get at the issue of whether the security forces have changed the tactics of subversive tactics.~~

CASTRO

*R [signature]*

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Classification